

The Honorable Jennifer A. Kiggans (VA02)

E&C Member Day Hearing Testimony

Chair(wo)man, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I am here to bring awareness to the committee for my bill, the *Care for Military Kids Act*.

As the proud Representative of Virginia's Second Congressional District, home to one of the largest active-duty military population in the United States, advocating for those who serve our country and their families is one of my top priorities.

Along with my past life as a Navy helicopter pilot, I am also a board certified nurse practitioner. I most enjoy when I get to work on policy that marries these two careers and passions, and the *Care for Military Kids Act* does just that.

Unlike civilian families, military families often need to move every two to three years, not by choice, but by obligation.

When relocated to another state, servicemembers uproot their whole lives to answer the call to serve, and their families often sacrifice a great deal.

For servicemembers who have dependents with disabilities, this sacrifice can greatly impact their livelihood. Most servicemembers and their families get health insurance via TRICARE, but TRICARE does not cover long term care services.

This means children with disabilities covered by TRICARE through their parent's military

service cannot receive the care they need unless they sign up for Medicaid.

People with disabilities often need long-term care services to help them with everyday activities, such as eating, walking, and medical equipment management.

Unfortunately, with every move, dependent children must re-enter entirely new state health systems with new Medicaid rules, new waiver programs, new provider networks, and long wait lists.

Servicemembers and their families already sacrifice a great deal to defend our country, they should not have to sacrifice the health and wellbeing of their families.

The Care for Military Kids Act would amend the Social Security Act to ensure that any dependent of an active duty servicemember, currently receiving long-term care services through a state administered Medicaid plan, will remain eligible should their family be stationed outside the state, ensuring our servicemembers do not have to choose between serving their country and getting their children the critical care they need.

I was grateful to work with then Chair McMorris Rodgers and this Committee last Congress to pass this legislation in the House on a bipartisan basis—and I look forward to doing so again.

Thank you, and I welcome your questions.